Reviewer's report

Title: Paraneoplastic Neuromyelitis Optica associated with ANNA-1 Antibodies in Invasive Thymoma

Version: 2 Date: 14 July 2014

Reviewer: Eoin O'Sullivan

Reviewer's report:

The paper presents a very interesting case. However although it suggests a new association with a disease process the relevance to ophthalmology needs to be demonstrated by the authors.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Similar cases of patients with thymus disease and NMO have been previously described and so it seems the novel aspect of this case is the presence of ANNA-1 antibodies. However the clinical relevance to ophthalmology of this is unclear. Indeed the authors state that the ANNA-1 antibody ‘may not be directly related to the optic neuropathy’. If this is the case what is the relevance of this finding to an ophthalmology journal? Is such a finding not of more relevance to oncologists?

Minor Essential Revisions

2) Could the authors confirm that the lung lesion was a recurrence of the thymoma?

3) Why do they think the multifocal ERGs were abnormal?

4) The authors quote the paper by Wingerchuk et al regarding the diagnostic criteria for neuromyelitis optica. Did they use these? Should the diagnosis be one of neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder?

5) The authors mention at the end of the case description that the patient suddenly developed limb weakness ad paresthesia. Was the cause of this determined?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests

(I receive a stipend to summarise and comment upon published papers for the CML-Ophthalmology journal)